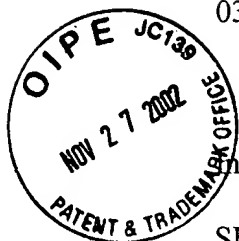


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03500.014393

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*20 IDS
1.5 step 10e
12.3.02*

In re Application of:

SHOZO HATTORI, et al.

Application No.: 09/543,331

Filed: April 5, 2000

For: INK ABSORBENT, INK
TANK, INK CARTRIDGE,
METHOD FOR
MANUFACTURING INK
ABSORBENT, AND METHOD
FOR MANUFACTURING INK
TANK

Examiner: M. Nghiem

Group Art Unit: 2861

November 26, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the enclosed European Examination Report which issued during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application.

Both of the documents cited in the Examination Report have been cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated January 16, 2001. Accordingly, no references accompany this Information Disclosure Statement.

The European Examination Report is dated October 28, 2002. In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that this Information Disclosure Statement presents information that was cited in a communication from a foreign patent

TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

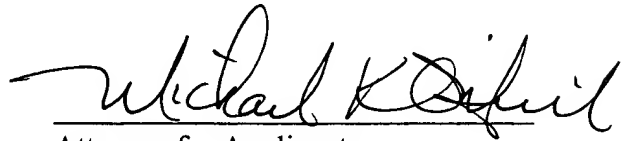
NOV 29 2002

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office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael K. DeFuria", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants

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